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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Poland

SUBJECT Gdynia Harbor Facilities

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1. The ship, a vessel of only 2,600 DW, with a crew of twenty-nine, arrived in the port of Gdynia in mid-March 1954, carrying a cargo of sulphur from Greece and pig iron from Italy. A pilot was brought aboard at the harbor entrance, and the vessel was brought alongside a dock and secured. Four stevedoring crews were standing by to discharge, but before they were allowed on board, Soviet Security Police and soldiers conducted a complete and systematic search of the entire ship and its personnel. During this search all officers and the crew were separated from each other and confined to quarters; the crewmen were isolated from each other, and communication was prohibited. Cabins and quarters were searched thoroughly, to the extent of having carpets and rugs lifted from the floors, bunks disarranged, bulkheads tapped, trunks and baggage opened, and personal clothing searched. Every inch of the vessel and its personnel were gone over minutely, the search lasting over five hours. All passports were picked up and retained by the boarding police. Troops armed with machine guns were stationed fore and aft, with two at the gangway.
2. All during the search the four stevedoring crews were standing by at the ship's expense. When unloading operations finally began, they were conducted satisfactorily and speedily. Cargo was discharged on a round-the-clock basis by all male crews of stevedores. However, the Master of the ship reportedly filed an official protest against having to pay for the four stevedoring crews standing by during the five-hour search, but was informed by his agent that this was one of the ways the port officials obtained extra pay for dock workers and officials; presumably, although the ship must pay for the waiting time, the workers who were waiting did not get the money.
3. The personnel of the ship were granted permission to go ashore by the security police. However, the Master of the vessel ordered that no member of the crew be allowed ashore despite this permission. The captain him-

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self went ashore during the afternoon of the unloading operation for a period of three hours, and, to the best of his knowledge, was not followed. He reportedly visited the bonded store in port and was amazed at the extremely low prices at which merchandise was offered out of bond. An Omega wristwatch which sold for the equivalent of US\$30 in Sweden could be purchased for US\$6. A large Czech crystal vase of good quality which would sell for US\$40 in Sweden was priced at about US\$10. Italian motorcycles were available out of bond for about US\$250; the same model sells in Sweden for about US\$800. Food also was very plentiful and inexpensive. Five large geese, averaging about twenty pounds each, were purchased for the ship stores for US\$1.50 each. However, these items were available only out of bond for visiting vessels. Local residents could not purchase them, and articles carried by stores patronized by the people of the town were inferior and sold at exorbitant prices, and so were not moving at all.

4. No shipbuilding was in evidence, and no Soviet naval craft were in the harbor except pilot vessels. Soviet soldiers and police were noticeably in the background, and most port and security activity was conducted under the supervision of Polish Communists, who appeared to be trying to be overly harsh to impress the Russian officers.
5. The people on the street appeared to be unsavory and rather poorly dressed, but not undernourished to a noticeable degree.
6. When the ship was ready to depart, another intensive search was conducted which lasted about four hours. When the search was completed, passports were returned and the vessel given clearance. A pilot came aboard, accompanied by two armed soldiers, who remained with him on the bridge at all times. After the vessel was clear of the harbor, a pilot boat came alongside; the pilot was the first to leave, followed by the two armed soldiers. Apparently the pilot was to be given no opportunity to dock to leave Gdynia.

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